

**MINUTES
MAULDIN CITY COUNCIL
JANUARY 21, 2014
7:00 PM**

Members present were Mayor Dennis Raines, Council members Dale Black, Scott Crosby, Taft Matney, Bob Cook, Gabe Hunter and Larry Goodson. Trey Eubanks, City Administrator and Daniel Hughes, City Attorney were also present.

1. Call to order. Mayor Raines
 - a. Invocation- Councilman Cook
 - b. Pledge of Allegiance- Councilman Cook
 - c. Welcome- Mayor Raines
2. Proclamations and Presentations- Mauldin Chamber

James Stewart was present from the Chamber. He spoke of some upcoming meetings and thanked the City for its support of the chamber.
3. Reading and approval of minutes.- December 16, 2013; special called January 7, 2014

Councilman Goodson made a motion to approve the December 16th minutes with Councilman Black seconding. The vote was unanimous (7-0). Councilman Black made a motion to approve the January 7th council minutes with Councilman Crosby seconding. The vote was unanimous (7-0).
4. Public Comment.
 - a. John Morin: 205 Marsh Creek Drive in Planters Row. I am President of the Homeowner's Association and I am here to address some concerns of the neighborhood. The first and foremost is speeding. We are afraid it might result in the injury of a child or someone out walking. People enjoy accelerating to 35-40 mph on Fieldgate. The posted speed limit is 25. In the past, residents along Fieldgate successfully worked with the City of Mauldin to install stop signs. That was a great effort led by one resident. It did slow the speeders down.

Last month, Vice President Simon Kay contacted the Mauldin Police Department regarding traffic calming and to date has had no response. This is not the first time we have tried to put in traffic calming. We tried this about seven years ago, but did not meet the criteria. Temporary enforcement has

happened, with police enforcement, but as soon as the extra enforcement is gone, the speeding starts back up again. I am asking on behalf of the 556 households of Planters Row for help reducing the speeding and put this on the fast track.

My second concern is parking on the streets near stop signs in front of fire hydrants. The police department should be able to address this. Weekly, we can cite 30 plus examples of residents who do this as well as abandoned vehicles. Weekly, we field complaints. Brian Johnson, board member and neighborhood watch liaison, drives the neighborhood and has seen this. There is an abandoned vehicle on Middleshare Drive with flat tires that has been there for weeks. There is also a vehicle on the other side of the street, which makes matters worse. An emergency vehicle would find it hard to thread the needle to get through.

I do see the police department drive through the neighborhood frequently, and I thank you for that, but I don't think any tickets have been issued nor has the abandoned vehicle been addressed. The roads in the neighborhood are maintained by the City of Mauldin, so we are asking the city council for your help to enforce the traffic laws. Would the City Council authorize Planters Row to enforce the traffic laws if the police department cannot do that? Our hands are effectively tied and we are asking for your help. Thank you for your time and I look forward to working with you to get this resolved.

Mayor Raines: Who have you contacted?

Brian Johnson: Corporal Wilson, Sargent Harrell, and Officer McCord. Sargent Harrell said that he felt warning tickets were a waste of time and that he would write tickets. The residents of Planters Row would rather receive some type of warning.

John Morin: We have seen the occasional police officer, but we have asked several times for enforcement.

Mayor Raines: I think traffic calming comes through Public Works. Please also give your contact information to the Police Chief.

5. Report from City Administrator

The Relay for Life event will be held in the City at the Cultural Center. This will be August 8th.

During the budget process last year, council directed that a possible sewer fee increase be looked at after the first of the year. The updating of the financial model will be completed within a week, there will be a presentation to the PW committee on February 3rd. Council will discuss on February 17th. March 4th will be a public meeting regarding this issue.

Silt fencing has been removed on 385 at Butler Road. The project is substantially complete. East Butler, Corn and Bridges intersection is coming along and should be complete by October. This is a DOT project.

Cultural Center work continues. Amenities will be installed soon weather permitting.

The County Road Commissioner for the City, Tim Brett, met with staff today regarding what will be done going forward. A draft report will be provided with our road list. This will come through PW committee in February. Mr. Brett and the commission want to get public input from Mauldin. Public meetings will be held during February and we will find out more after the first road commission meeting next Thursday.

- a. Hazard Mitigation Plan- This will be a multi-jurisdictional plan based on Greenville County's plan. A draft is required to be to the State by March. Kim Hamel is taking the lead in this effort and Chief Sapp has helped to provide information as well. This plan will help us be awarded pre and post FEMA money if we qualify. There is a disaster mitigation committee that has been formed. During the committee meetings, there will be a presentation on this plan. At the February council meeting, a resolution will be presented

to allow Mauldin to participate in the County's plan. The report is due to the State in March and then will be submitted to FEMA. We are hoping for FEMA approval in October-December.

The comprehensive plan is ready to be updated. The plan must be updated every five years. The planning commission will have a presentation by John Gardner to go through the process of updating next week.

John Gardner told council there are nine elements of a comprehensive plan, and these are population, housing, land use, natural resources, cultural resources, community facilities, transportation, economic development and priority investment. The City has some great population and income statistics. We are the 17th largest City in the state and have the highest median income and lowest poverty level in the County.

6. Reports from Standing Committees

a. Finance and Policy (Chairman Black)

- i. Reports and Communications from Finance Director- Holly Abercrombie said we got over a million dollar check last week from the County for property taxes. Expenditures are looking good and revenues are a little higher this year than last.

b. Building Codes (Chairman Crosby)

- i. Reports and Communications from Business and Development Services Director. – Kim Hamel reported that permit activity was increasing. There is a new development off of Ashmore Bridge Road. Chick-fil-A and Bojangle's are being issued permits.

Councilman Goodson asked how the sign permits are going with the new

ordinance. Kim said it is going smoothly, though no one has asked for an A-frame sign yet. Councilman Goodson asked if examples are being shown of compliant signs. Kim said that suggestions are made to people who do not get their signs approved right away so they will know what they need. Examples of compliant signs are also shown.

c. Recreation (Chairman Matney)

- i. Reports and Communications from Recreation Director- Van Brannon reported 2134 seniors participated in programs last month. Councilman Matney came to the ladies tea to be introduced to them. 60 participants are in the Biggest Loser. A new Lacrosse program will be introduced. A meeting will be held to discuss suggestions on getting baseball and other programs' participation up.

d. Public Safety (Chairman Cook)

- i. Reports and Communications from Police Chief- Chief Turner showed numbers of calls for service. The numbers have increased as the City is growing. The employee of the year will be introduced to Council next month. Crime trends are in good shape and Mauldin is a safe community. Councilman Goodson asked about the 276 incidents. Police Chief Turner said we have stepped up patrols and a closure should be coming soon to at least one of those cases.

Chairman Cook told Chief Turner he would like to be included in the meeting between Planters Row and the police and public works departments regarding traffic calming.

ii. Reports and Communications from Municipal Clerk of Court /

Administrative Judge- Judge Martin advised council of jury trial dates in April, August, and February.

iii. Reports and Communications from Fire Chief.- Chief Sapp reported that the

response time is 2.8 minutes. He showed calls for service for the last couple of years. Calls are decreasing due to the nurse on call at Greenville County helping to weed through medical calls.

- e. Planning and Economic Development (Chairman Hunter)
 - i. Reports and Communications from the Economic Developer- John Gardner reported that he will go to the Urban Land Institute in Charlotte tomorrow. It is a joint NC and SC meeting. Cade's Restaurant is on the market at a reduced price.

The Fowler Circle sidewalk project is being discussed with DOT.

Councilman Cook asked John about Four Seasons. There is a sign up saying the business will be relocating. John did not know about this until a few minutes ago.

Councilman Goodson asked about the 40 acre site. John said after a few site visits, we have not heard anything else from that company. John did call GADC to see if they had any inquiries. Development slows from November to around February.

- ii. Office of Cultural Affairs report – Almost 30,000 people used the facility in 2013. All areas had record numbers. There are some exciting events coming in 2014. The first theatre production will be in March. Staff has already begun meeting regarding this year's BBQ cook-off.

- f. Public Works (Chairman Goodson)
 - i. Reports and Communications from the PW Director- Mike Lambert reported the budget in all five divisions is above the 50% ideal remaining percentage. Mike showed some tonnage numbers for garbage and recycling for the last few months.

Chairman Goodson asked for row and drainage ditch maintenance to be on

the PW committee agenda for February.

Chairman Goodson asked if we have a means to pick up construction debris such as sheetrock and carpet. Mike said PW does not pick up construction debris, but there is a carpet recycling company on the same street as the PW building. Chairman Goodson said he would like to look into having a receptacle placed at PW for residents to be able to dispose of carpet.

7. Unfinished Business

- a. Consideration and action on sign ordinance phase 2 (Building Codes)- Chairman Crosby made a motion to accept this ordinance on second reading. This removes amortization from the ordinance and provides two revisions. One revision is to allow schools, places of worship and other Public or institutional uses to incorporate the use of a digital sign when the sign is proposed on a major thoroughfare. The other revision is modification to the standards in Section 6:11.7-L.5. Temporary Real Estate Signs. Councilman Goodson seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (7-0).

- b. Consideration and action on rezoning of 305 South Main Street (Committee of the Whole)- Councilman Crosby made a motion to table this rezoning until next month to allow a public hearing to be held for the residents affected. Councilman Matney seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (7-0).

8. New Business

- a. Consideration and action on FY15 budget calendar (Finance)- Chairman Black made a motion to adopt the budget calendar with Councilman Crosby seconding. The vote was unanimous (7-0).

- b. Consideration and action on Recreation district resolution (Rec)- This is a resolution stating Council's right to express its wishes to the County if the City feels that our interests are not being considered. Chairman Matney made a motion to pass this resolution. Councilman Black seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (7-0).

- c. Consideration and action on bond issuance for Recreation capital project- ball field lighting (Committee of the Whole)- This is a refinance of our sports

center debt and the addition of the ball field lighting. The refinance of 1.85% will show a savings to the city of \$46,900 for the sports center debt.

Brad Love reminded council that the money will be paid from the hospitality and accommodation tax fund. There will be no ad valorem tax revenue used.

Trey Eubanks said there will be some quotes for removal of the poles coming in this week.

Councilman Black made a motion to adopt the ordinance on first reading with Councilman Goodson seconding. The vote was unanimous (7-0).

- d. Consideration and action on reimbursement resolution associated with Recreation debt (Committee of Whole)- This is intent to spend money to reimburse ourselves in advance of a bond. Councilman Black made a motion to adopt this resolution with Councilman Matney seconding. The vote was unanimous (7-0).

9. Public Comment

Joel Ann Chandler: I wanted to let everyone know what is going on. A man named Brian Muraff had a heart transplant two or three weeks ago. He is back in the hospital in Charlotte with complications. He and his wife live on Drury Lane. They have denied his long term disability insurance. They have no income and no insurance. I am asking you keep them in your prayers. I am not asking for donations, but we have a jar up at the market for him. I just want to ask for prayers that he and his wife get through this.

Bob Gecy congratulated Council for the way the meetings are conducted and the decorum.

10. Council requests.

11. Executive session to discuss property acquisition (Committee of the Whole)

Councilman Cook made a motion to go into executive session with Councilman Hunter seconding. The vote was unanimous (7 -0).

Councilman Hunter reported that no action was taken in executive session. He proposed to give the Mayor the authority to go into discussions on property acquisition and report back to Council.

12. Adjournment. – Mayor Raines adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Miller
Municipal Clerk